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**Economic Commission for Europe****Inland Transport Committee****Eighty-third session**

Geneva, 23–26 February 2021

Item 7 (o) of the provisional agenda

**Strategic questions of a horizontal and cross-sectoral policy or regulatory nature:****Intermodal transport and logistics****Draft resolution on strengthening intermodal freight transport****Note by the secretariat****I. Background**

1. The Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics considered the developments and impacts from the evolving Covid-19 pandemic on intermodal freight transport and logistics. The Working Party established important lessons learned from the pandemic and the assessment of the recovery measures taken in countries of the Economic Commission for Europe region as reflected in ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2020/5.
2. The Working Party confirmed the need to promote the conditions for increasing the competitiveness of intermodal transport and warned of Covid-19 recovery measures that undermine that competitiveness, distort the freight transport market and so negatively impact the needed sustainable transition in the sector.
3. In this regard, and convinced of the fact that strengthening intermodal freight transport is key to freight transport sustainable transition as well as to making it more resilient to pandemics such as the Covid-19 pandemic, the Working Party at its sixty-third session (Geneva, 28-30 October 2020) approved a resolution on strengthening intermodal freight transport, as included in point II below. The Working Party requested its secretariat to present the resolution to the Inland Transport Committee for adoption.
4. The Inland Transport Committee, at its eighty-third session, is requested to consider this resolution and to adopt it.

**II. Draft resolution***The Inland Transport Committee,*

*Recalling* its role stipulated in the Strategy until 2030 in serving as UN Platform for promoting sustainable regional and interregional inland transport connectivity and mobility, and within this role, *emphasizing* the work on sustainable integrated intermodal infrastructural connectivity and mobility,



*Being aware* of the role inland transport and its transition to sustainable transport play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Acknowledging* the important contribution of intermodal freight transport in making freight sector more sustainable and, in this regard, *recognizing* the need for increasing the market share of intermodal transport in the freight sector,

*Appreciating* the importance of the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC Agreement) and Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the AGTC Agreement as well as the role these legal instruments play in making international intermodal freight transport more efficient and attractive to customers in the ECE region,

*Appreciating further* the work of the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics in promoting intermodal transport and in supporting its development through elaboration of guidance or handbooks,

*Observing* a higher resilience of intermodal freight transport in coping with emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemics,

*Desires* to further strengthen intermodal freight transport in the ECE region, and in doing so:

*Invites* ECE member States to accede to the AGTC Agreement and/or the Protocol if they have not done so yet,

*Encourages* the Contracting Parties to both legal instruments to strengthen the implementation of these instruments and, in doing so, to update as necessary the co-ordinated plans for the development and operation of intermodal networks contained in the instruments and put them in operations through national investment programmes,

*Invites* the Contracting Parties to establish, through the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics, a mechanism helping to monitor the implementation of efficient intermodal networks in conformity with the legal instruments with particular attention to green logistics,

*Further encourages* the Contracting Parties to identify a core intermodal network in both instruments, accompanied by special procedures for operations on this core network, during emergency situations including pandemics,

*Requests* the Contracting Parties and other ECE member States, within the auspices of the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics, to work on data interoperability for improved transparency and network integration with the aim of improving the bundling of services in freight transport, and consider ways for integrating data interoperability aspects in the AGTC Agreement,

*Proposes* that Governments of interested ECE member States agree within the framework of the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics on appropriate targets for the market share of intermodal transport in freight sector and to elaborate a plan for achieving the targets e.g. through prioritization of international intermodal freight trains on the rail network,

*Encourages* the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics to help accelerate automation in intermodal transport and, in doing so, prepare a handbook with best practices on the use of automation in the sector,

*Invites further* the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics to consider supporting collaborative networks for flexible transport planning processes and integration of modes and for strengthening the voice of the intermodal industry,

*Suggests* the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics to support the transport documents digitalization efforts,

*Requests* the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics with support of the ECE secretariat to report progress on the above-mentioned issues after five years.